

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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As is the case in most undertakings of this magnitude, this document could not have been completed without the assistance of many devoted individuals who infused their expertise and passion into this effort. It is risky to recognize individuals, because someone may inadvertently be omitted. Nevertheless, we feel compelled to make an honest attempt to recognize all who made significant contributions.

Irene Toulouse and Diana Harper provided vital secretarial support. Irene supplied logistical support by ferreting out telephone numbers, website addresses, email addresses, organizational logos, etc. Diana endured multiple iterations and endless edits of tables as she strived to develop a format that pleased us, and she graciously compiled all the species assessments and management systems (many of which needed to be scanned to produce digital copies) that accompany this report.

Linda Welch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) jump-started the process by working with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) staff to develop the initial, mammoth table for bird species. We used this table as a template for developing similar tables for other fish and wildlife species.

Richard Dressler, and members of the Wildlife Resource Section of MDIFW, compiled the lists of wildlife species and developed the process for identifying Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Brad Allen, Lindsay Tudor, and Tom Hodgman compiled the bird-related tables; Phillip deMaynadier, the amphibian and reptile tables; Beth Swartz and Phillip deMaynadier the invertebrate tables; and Karen Morris, the mammal tables. Dennis McNeish, Peter Bourque, and John Boland compiled all the fish tables, and Deirdre Gilbert and Tom Squires of the Department of Marine Resources, Melissa Laser of the Atlantic Salmon Commission, and Jeff Murphy of National Marine Fisheries Service contributed to the marine sections. Don Katnik developed and formatted much of the habitat data and produced the maps found in Chapter 4. Amy Meehan and Colleen Ryan helped produce other maps. All provided critical review of this document as it was developed, which is remarkable when one realizes that these new tasks needed to be integrated into already crammed work programs. Tom Hodgman went the extra mile by serving as a sounding board for new ideas and critiquing approaches we proposed.

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Ed Lavery of the University of Maine served as the facilitator of the Public Working Group meetings. He kept the process on task and provided helpful insight on how we should proceed.

We cannot express enough thanks to members of the Working Group (Chapter 8.1) for their contributions. All graciously eked out time from their busy schedules to challenge our assumptions, provide constructive criticism, insert inspiration, and encourage us to complete what many of them believed to be an historical effort on behalf of fish and wildlife conservation in Maine.

Ken Elowe and Mark Stadler demonstrated an early and steadfast commitment to the development of this document by making it the highest priority for all involved, scheduling regular meetings to track progress and provided input at critical junctures, coordinating with members of the Working Group (particularly state and federal partners), and working with the USFWS to validate our approach.

Sandy Ritchie and George Matula kept the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS or Strategy) ship afloat. Sandy cheerfully persevered through many long months managing and developing this CWCS and coordinating stakeholder meetings to ensure involvement of all interested parties. George provided invaluable, thoughtful comment and review of the development of many of the processes described herein; his good humor and gentle manner were greatly appreciated. As principle authors of this document, Sandy and George, with assistance from Mark Stadler, took on the daunting task of filling in the details and taking on the ultimate responsibility for the content of the Strategy.

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The result, this Strategy, is a testament to the dedication, passion, expertise, and tenacity of all who made it possible. It was an honor and privilege to work with them, and we look forward to our continued collaboration.